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HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—In the last issue of this magazine there was published a letter dated December 22, 1888, from Captain William E. Earle to Hon. J. Q. Marshall, then Secretary of State, presenting South Carolina with a copy of the great seal of the Confederate States, in which Captain Earle states that Col. Pickett had “sent to England and had these copies made”. The following certificate shows that these reproductions were electrotype copies and not replicas as some have stated:

J. S. & A. B. Wyon.
Chief Engravers of Her Majesty's Seals.
Medallists, Jewellers, &c.
287, Regent Street, London, W.
Studio & Works, 2 & 3, Langham Chambers, Portland Place, W.
6th March, 1874.

To all whom it may concern.

Having received from John T. Pickett, Esq^{re}., Counsellor-at-Law, of Washington City, in the United States of America, a certain impression of the Great Seal of the Confederate States of America, obtained by the Electrotype process, we hereby certify that the said impression is a faithful reproduction of the identical Seal engraved in 1864, by our predecessor the late Joseph S. Wyon, Esq^{re}., for James M. Mason, Esq^{re}., who was at that time in London, representing the interests of the Confederate States of which the Seal referred to was designed as the symbolical emblem of sovereignty.

We may add that it has been the invariable practice of our house to preserve proof impressions of all important seal-work executed by us: and on a comparison of the impression now sent us with the proof impression retained by us we have no hesitation in asserting that so perfect an impression could not have been produced except from the original Seal. We have never made any duplicate of the Seal in question.

Witness our hands, the date above given.

J S. & A B. Wyon

A LOVE-LETTER OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.—The following letter has been loaned for publication here by a descendant of the writer and recipient thereof; they having married in due course of time. It is to such documents that we must appeal in order to learn the history of social life in any period:

Addressed: Miss Mary Cormack

Philadelphia 30th Aug^r. 1787.

Dear Miss

It is with inexpressible pleasure that I embrace this opportunity of acquainting you of my arrival here on the 17th inst in perfect

health, after a passage of eight days, since which I can with much sincerity assure you have enjoyd very little satisfaction in the Company of my Friends & Acquaintances in this part of the World notwithstanding their endeavours to make the place as agreeable to me as possible, but situated as I am, I have neither inclination or abilities in the pursuit of any enjoyment whatever but what may tend to promote your happiness. This I shall ever make my constant study as you alone can make me blest or miserable & depend depend upon it that to make me happy you must be so yourself—

I have some business of consequence to transact in Boston for which place I purpose seting out early tomorrow from whence I shall return to this City & in the first Vessel take my departure for Charleston where I shall probably arrive about the middle of October, when I flatter myself you will relieve the anxieties & put an end to the suspense of him who is with the greatest sincerity of heart—Dear Polly

Your Absent Lover &
Faithful Admirer
Morton Brailsford.

P. S.

Pray remember me in the most affectionate manner to your good Mother & Mr Donaldson, By favouring me with a few lines on rec^t: of this you would confer a lasting obligation on

Yours &c..

M. B—————d

Miss Mary Cormack